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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0483/2018**

17.10.2018

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the rise in neo-fascist violence in Europe  
(2018/2869(RSP))

**Cecilia Wikström**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the rise in neo-fascist violence in Europe  
(2018/2869(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
- having regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
- having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin<sup>1</sup> (the Race Equality Directive),
- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the establishment in June 2016 of the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,
- having regard to the Council of Europe resolution of 30 September 2014 on counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and right-wing extremism,
- having regard to the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation,
- having regard to the Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 1.

- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas as enshrined in Article 2 of the TEU, the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities; whereas these values are common to all Member States;
- B. whereas the lack of serious action against neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups has enabled the occurrence of the current xenophobic surge in Europe;
- C. whereas openly neo-fascist, neo-Nazi, racist and xenophobic groups and political parties have been inciting hatred and violence in society;
- D. whereas, as referred to by Europol in its European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TESAT) of 2018<sup>1</sup>, the Commissioner responsible for security, Sir Julian King, speaking at an event held on 22 March 2017 in commemoration of the 2016 Brussels attacks, highlighted the growing menace of right-wing violent extremism, stating that he was not aware of a single EU Member State that is not affected by the phenomenon in some way, specifically citing the 2011 Norway attacks, the assassination of British MP Jo Cox, and attacks on asylum centres and mosques across Europe to highlight what he warned was a ‘less reported’ threat to security;
- E. whereas neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups manifest themselves in a variety of forms; whereas most of these groups appeal to the principle of freedom of speech; whereas the right to freedom of speech is not absolute;
- F. whereas Article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states that nothing in the declaration ‘may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms’ set forth therein;
- G. whereas the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination affirms that its States Parties condemn all propaganda and all organisations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin;
- H. whereas the promotion of fascism is banned in several Member States pursuant to their national laws;
- I. whereas the TESAT 2018 Europol report recorded a near doubling in the number of individuals arrested for right-wing extremist offences in 2017;
- J. whereas on 22 July 2011, 77 people were killed and 151 injured in the Norway attacks;
- K. whereas on 16 June 2016 Jo Cox, Member of the UK Parliament, was brutally murdered in Birstall, UK;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2018-tesat-2018>

- L. whereas according to the 2017 Report on the Protection of the Constitution (Facts and Trends) by the German domestic intelligence agency Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV), 1 054 acts of extreme right-wing violence were committed in Germany in 2017<sup>1</sup>;
- M. whereas according to the TESAT 2018 Europol report, five foiled, failed or completed terrorist attacks attributed to far-right individuals were reported in 2017<sup>2</sup>;
- N. whereas on 21 September 2018 Eleonora Forenza, MEP, and her assistant Antonio Perillo were assaulted after an anti-fascist demonstration in Bari, Italy;
- O. whereas the French intelligence service has expressed concern at the increasing number of members of military and law enforcement forces joining far-right violent groups<sup>3</sup>;
- P. whereas the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), established by the Council of Europe, expressed alarm at the rise in right-wing extremism and neo-fascism in Croatia in a report published on 15 May 2018<sup>4</sup>;
1. Strongly condemns and deplores the terrorist attacks, murders, psychological violence, violent physical attacks and marches by neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations that have taken place in various EU Member States;
  2. Is deeply concerned by the increasing normalisation of fascism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in the EU;
  3. Is especially worried about the neo-fascist violence affecting society as a whole and targeting particular minorities such as black Europeans/people of African descent, Jews, Muslims, Roma, third-country nationals, LGBTI people and persons with disabilities;
  4. Strongly condemns all violent attacks by neo-fascist groups against politicians and members of political parties, as reported in some Member States;
  5. Is deeply concerned by the impunity with which neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups operate in some Member States and stresses that this sense of impunity is among the reasons that explain the alarming rise in violent actions by certain far-right organisations;
  6. Acknowledges the worrying trend of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups using social media and the internet to organise and strategise across the European Union;
  7. Calls on the Member States to roundly condemn and sanction hate crime, hate speech and scapegoating by politicians and public officials at all levels and on all types of media, as they directly normalise and reinforce hatred and violence in society;
  8. Calls on the Member States to take further measures to prevent, condemn and counter

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.verfassungsschutz.de/en/download-manager/\\_annual-report-2017-summary.pdf](https://www.verfassungsschutz.de/en/download-manager/_annual-report-2017-summary.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2018-tesat-2018>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/france/090418/forces-de-l-ordre-liees-l-ultra-droite-violente-la-dgsi-s-inquiete?onglet=full>

<sup>4</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/fifth-report-on-croatia/16808b57be>

hate speech and hate crime;

9. Calls on the Member States to investigate and prosecute hate crimes and to share best practices for identifying and investigating hate crimes, including those motivated specifically by the various forms of xenophobia;
10. Calls on the Member States to envisage and provide for adequate support for the victims of racist or xenophobic crimes and hate crimes, and the protection of all witnesses against the perpetrators;
11. Calls on the Member States to set up anti-hate crime units in police forces; calls on police forces to ensure that their personnel do not engage in any form of racist, xenophobic or discriminatory act, and that any such act committed is investigated and those responsible brought to justice;
12. Calls on the Commission to launch a call for civil society organisations to monitor and report hate speech and hate crime in the Member States;
13. Supports, commends and calls for the protection of community groups and civil society organisations that fight against fascism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
14. Calls for consolidated EU anti-discrimination legislation, including the transposition/implementation of existing legislation and the passing of new legislation, including the Equal Treatment Directive;
15. Recalls that Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, the implementation deadline for which was November 2010, provides for a legal base for imposing penalties on legal persons publicly inciting violence or hatred against a minority group;
16. Urges the Commission to update its 2014 report on the implementation of the aforementioned Council Framework Decision, and to initiate infringement proceedings against those Member States that have not complied with the provisions of the Decision;
17. Calls for full and timely cooperation between law enforcement, intelligence agencies, the judiciary and civil society organisations in the fight against fascism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
18. Calls on the Member States to follow the Council of Europe's recommendations on counteracting manifestations of neo-Nazism and right-wing extremism;
19. Calls on the Member States to provide mandatory, human rights-based and service-oriented in-service training to law enforcement officers and officials in the judicial system at all levels;
20. Encourages the Member States to provide training to those working in public broadcasting and the media to raise their awareness about the challenges and discrimination faced by the victims of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups;

21. Calls on the Member States to put in place national 'exit programmes' for violent neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups; underlines that such programmes should go far beyond one-to-one interventions and should involve long-term support for those struggling to find jobs, relocate and develop new and safe social networks;
22. Emphasises that an awareness of history is one of the preconditions for preventing such crimes from occurring in the future and plays an important role in educating the younger generations; points out that downplaying Nazi crimes is a first step towards reawakening ideas from that era;
23. Calls on the Member States to condemn and counteract all forms of Holocaust denial, including the trivialisation and minimalisation of the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators; points out that the truth about the Holocaust must not be trivialised by political or media discourse;
24. Calls for a common culture of remembrance that rejects the fascist crimes of the past; is deeply worried that the younger generations in Europe and elsewhere feel less and less concerned about the history of fascism, and hence risk becoming indifferent to new threats;
25. Encourages the Member States to promote education through mainstream culture on the diversity of our society and on our common history, including the atrocities of World War II, such as the Holocaust, and the systematic dehumanisation of its victims over a number of years;
26. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations.